

her designs. Her design philosophy is to mix modernity with tradition; using luxury materials to create a unique texture. The focus of her inspiration is still the "Eternity" knot.

To Katherine, Chinese knotting is an art. She hopes that her handbags would be taken the same way as these Chinese knots, weathering the test of time on its superior quality and become a timeless classic.

Katherine's handbag takes on the character of its designer: chic and playful.

Photo captions:

1-3: Just the clutch bags alone from Katherine Kwei's collection already come in an assortment of colors from grey to khaki, mustard to salmon.

4: The favorite of the designer; a grey clutch bag. Katherine said this is most suitable for attending cocktail parties or banquets.

5: A must have item for a chic lady - hobo bag is the best choice.

6-7: My favorite style of tote bag. It comes in a variety of different designs.

8-11: Besides colors, Katherine paid special attention to the materials that are used in the handbags, such as water-snakeskin, sheepskin and lambskin, and combine with a total handmade design which gives the designs a human touch.

12-13 The snake-print lambskin design is the most impressive design and it is also the most difficult one to make in the manufacturing process.

名人時尚 C42

Katherine Kwei

永恒幸福結



在「永恒幸福結」中，Katherine Kwei 以優雅的姿態，展現了她對時尚的獨特品味。她所穿的每一件衣服，都經過精心挑選，展現了她對時尚的獨特品味。她所穿的每一件衣服，都經過精心挑選，展現了她對時尚的獨特品味。

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Publication: Apple Daily

Date: November 17, 2006

Katherine Kwei Eternal Knot of Happiness

Affectionate with Chinese culture, accessories designer Katherine Kwei established her own line of handbags under her name. Combining the tradition of knotting and her unique "Eternity" knot she hopes to endow each bag with happiness and good luck.

Hong Kong born Katherine Kwei worked in Louis Vuitton's Public Relations Department before pursuing her path as a designer. While working at Louis Vuitton, Kwei learned that originality and quality is the eternal key to design. With her interest in design she left LV to pursue her Master's Degree in Design and Technology for Accessories from the prestigious London College of Fashion. Upon graduation, she moved to New York and gained valuable experience working with the famed Zac Posen for his handbag and accessories Spring/Summer 2006 collection.

Understanding the Importance of Character

The Katherine Kwei handbag line was designed by Katherine herself, placing Chinese knots in her designs. During the interview she said, "I have learned the importance of marketing on branding and image at LV. When it comes to creating my own brand, I understand that I must instill my own character into the designs, that would be the signature of my brand. My source of inspiration comes from the traditional art of Chinese knotting."

Katherine's Spring/Summer 2007 collection comes in three series; Stella, Annea and Zara with a total of nine pieces including shoulder bag and clutch embodying elegance, meticulous and uniqueness. The collection uses quality Italian leather from water-snake, lamb and an extraordinary snake-print goat skin. Colors include white, mahogany, mustard, salmon, grey and beige.

It all begins with a seamless piece of leather

Each handbag is created from a single skin of leather which is cut, woven and hand-knotted by master craftsmen into the "Eternity" knots symbolizing happiness and good luck. The handbags will be available at Lane Crawford.

Photo captions:

Stella brown, yellow handbag \$12,450.

According to Katherine Kwei, as a young girl, she and her grandmother folded wonton dumplings and knotted cords. This sparked her interest in knotting.

Anneka Beige lambskin clutch \$4,750

Stella brown and white lambskin handbag \$5,000

Anneka brown lambskin handbag \$6,000

Anneka beige lambskin handbag \$7,300

Zara grey water snake skin clutch \$5,900

Zara mustard water snake skin handbag \$10,000

● ● ●



Publication: Sing Tao Daily

Date: November 17, 2006

The Katherine Kwei Eternity Knot from Generation to Generation

Combining traditional Chinese art of knotting, trendy designs and quality leather, handbags with unique characteristics and rich texture are woven by designer Katherine Kwei in her first collection of handbags.

Knotting is a revered art form in China dating back to the royal courts of the Tang and Song Dynasties. Designs fashioned after symbols of happiness, longevity, prosperity and fortune are popular, and this traditional craft is passed on from generation to generation. Katherine was taught by her grandmother and has created her own "Eternity" knot. Using quality Italian leather, Kwei ensures that it is pliable enough to strip and knot yet sturdy enough to withstand the weight.

The detailing of each handbag is perfect, starting with a single piece of skin, bags are cut, woven, and hand-knotted by master craftsmen. Each bag is instilled with an extraordinary style of east meets west. Katherine's premier collection includes nine pieces using leather from water-snake, lamb and goat in white, mahogany, mustard, salmon grey and beige. Each clutch or shoulder bag is considered the perfect blend of arts and craftsmanship.

Relations with Knots

34-year-old Katherine was born into a rich family. Her father, Randy is a banker, her mother Wong Yung Chun is an artist and her grandmother is a "stylist" for silver screen legends Katherine Hepburn and Anthony Quinn. Under her grandmother's influence, Katherine is most interested in Chinese traditional art. Katherine worked in Louis Vuitton's Public Relations Department for a few years before leaving for the London College of Fashion in pursuit of her Master's Degree in Design and Technology for Accessories. While in London, she worked as an intern with floral appliqué handbag designer Susannah Hunter as well as the trendy Billy Bag Company. After graduation, Katherine worked with the famous Zac Posen, on his handbag and accessories line for the Spring/Summer 2006 collection.

When asked if it was too late for her to enter the fashion industry, Katherine said with a smile, "I have learned a lot while working in Public Relations, I don't think it is too late to start after accumulating such experience. When I first saw the production

process, I was fascinated. Over a hundred handbags were on the production line with 15 workers working on various stages of manufacturing. It is an unforgettable experience to see the whole production line filled with my own design. It was so surreal that I had to take a picture. Katherine Kwei's debut collection of hand bags will be on sale in November at Lane Crawford. It is expected to be "must-haves" among the celebrities.

Photo captions:

Stella Clutch in white and brown in the shape of a shell \$5,000

Zara Hobo shoulder bag \$10,000.

Anneka dark brown clutch bag \$6,000.

Zara Clutch grey evening bag \$5,900.

Zara Tote mustard shoulder bag \$10,500.

Stella Tote white and brown shoulder bag \$12,450.

Designer: Katherine pays special attention to the texture of her handbags. That is why she is very particular in her choice of leather.

HANDBAG designer 101

The Handbag Designer Resource



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Zara Clutch: Water Snake Skin in
Salmon, \$915



Anneka Shoulder Bag: Toffee colour in
Lambskin, \$915



Stella Tote: White Snake Print in Goat
Skin, \$1,760

Katherine Kwei

Background:

IHDA WINNER: Best Handbag in Overall Style
& Design

What is your name? Katherine Kwei

Where are you from? Hong Kong

Where do you live now? New York City

How old are you? 34

Do you have a design background? London College of Fashion where I received a M.A. in Design & Technology for Accessories

Do you still have a day job? No, Katherine Kwei is my full-time job!

What year were your bags born? 2006

Bag brand name: Katherine Kwei

What is their retail price range? \$645 - \$1820

Where can a shopper buy your bags? They will be available in the U.S. next year but will be in Lane Crawford in Hong Kong for the Holiday season of this year.

For more information, contact: www.katherinekwei.com

Comments: [post a comment]

1. These bags are beyond stunning! - Jackie from Wa, November 14, 2006.
2. WOW - I am going to start saving for a bag like the zara clutch. - Maria from NYC, November 14, 2006.
3. LOVE IT! - J from NYC, June 15, 2007.
4. Very beautiful! - Nadin from CA, July 11, 2007.

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Story:

As a young girl, I remember spending afternoons with her grandmother folding wonton dumplings, knotting cords for necklaces filled with jade and precious stones, and looking over the intricate embroidery patterns of old quilts and robes. My grandmother, who was a clothier "artiste" for silver screen legends Katherine Hepburn and Anthony Quinn, as well as a master at Chinese knotting, instilled in me a deep reverence for my cultural roots and passion for working with my hands.

Deeply ingrained in my heritage, I draw much of my inspiration from my Chinese roots with her signature Chinese "Eternity" knot-inspired weave as the main focus. My goal is to create collections that are of outstanding quality and timeless designs - much like the art of Chinese knotting that she learned from my grandmother, which is integrated throughout my work.

I have been pretty lucky with my production in the sense that my samples have always been done very well and in a pretty timely manner. The Ci-fu's (Chinese for master pattern makers) really enjoy my styles, especially working on the knotting weave and are pretty enthusiastic about diving right in. Sometimes though they get carried away and do their own interpretation which is pretty funny to see as well. For one line, I added a fringe. The Ci-fu decided to reinterpret my weave so that fringe would come from the weave instead of adding it. Although I did not go with this in the end, it was great to see another approach. You never know - I might use his idea in an upcoming collection...

My nightmares to date are with my factory when they make careless errors such as using the wrong color skins and match the wrong kind of skin to the lamb skins. Also, they also underestimate my leather quantities which makes me chase my suppliers for little quantities of leather constantly (e.g. 10 skins of snake.) Everything really boils down to the patterns and providing the correct leather consumption figures to get the correct costing so that the pricing reflects this accurately. I

am sure I am not the only one who goes through this because this is where the hard work kicks in.

Katherine Kwei handbags blends everything from luxury brands to vintage pieces to the latest street wear to create a polished yet chic and playful, figure-flattering silhouette. I hope that my refined sensibility reflects in my pieces and appeals to a woman who is confident and secure in her own sense of style.

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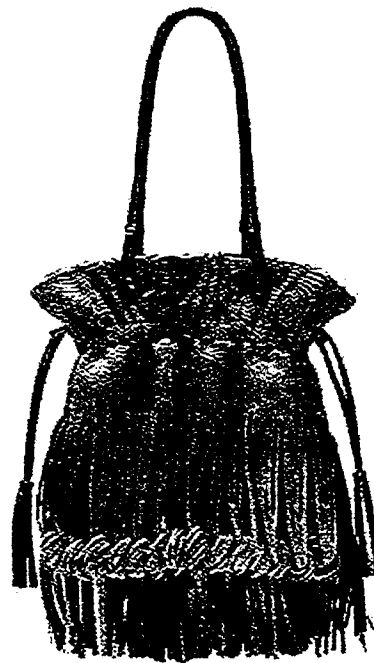
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what's hot, right now.

Tuesday, March 06, 2007

Hot Interview: Katherine Kwei - Handbags with an Eastern Flair



About Katherine:

Accessories designer, Katherine Kwei is known for the intricate knots she incorporates into her handbag designs. She began her career working in public relations for Louis Vuitton in

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Hong Kong, before going to school for accessory design. She graduated from Cordwainers in London, and worked for local handbag designers Susan Hunter and Billy Bag Company. Shortly after, Katherine moved to New York and worked on Zac Posen's handbag and accessory line for the Spring/Summer 2006 collection. In 2007, she launched her own handbag line, which combines modernity with tradition, and uses luxury materials with unique textures. Katherine keeps her signature Chinese "Eternity" knot-inspired weave as the center of attention in her designs.

Stylehive: You are very rooted to your Chinese heritage. Tell us about how your grandmother and your culture inspires you.

Katherine Kwei: My grandmother had an incredible spirit which translated into everything she did. Like most cultures, family is cherished and most of the times family gathers around food. I loved watching my grandmother cook and prepare large family dinners. One of my favorite activities would be to help her fold wonton dumplings all afternoon. Her love for food also translated into creating beautiful clothes and jewelry. She and my mother had so many beautiful Chinese embroidery fabrics, and even now I know we have old Chinese robes in storage. The Chinese culture is so rich it would be hard to pinpoint everything that inspires me, but the food (cooking and preparing), the jewelry and clothing my grandmother introduced me to has influenced my love of 'craft' work.

SH: You have very intricate craftsmanship. How long does it take to make one of your bags?

KK: From start to finish, around 5 hours for the clutch. The most time consuming part of making a bag is actually preparing all the 'bits and pieces.' So we need to join and smooth out the snake skins, then adhere them to the lambskin, then cut and then weave. The final stages of sewing all the pattern pieces together is the least time consuming.

SH: How has living so globally, in different cities like London, Hong Kong, New York, and Athens, affected your design?

KK: The impact of colors, textures and forms have all influenced me. I am fortunate to have been able to live and experience so many different places and have at the very least taken away that although the designs may be different, everything has it's own inherent beauty.

SH: What was it like working for such renown designers as Louis Vuitton and Zac Posen?

KK: I worked in the PR department for Louis Vuitton. I got to meet and work with Marc Jacobs on PR events which were very exciting and challenging. Marc is terribly charming and gifted with talking to the press and 'fans' and you can learn so much by just watching how he composes and handles himself. He is truly a man of so many talents, not just in incredible design. Zac Posen is also extremely charming and charismatic and I cannot think how anyone could not adore him. I was able to work in the creative studio with him and it was very inspirational. He has a strong support team, his sister Alexandra and mother, Susan, who really complement his visions and ideas. It is great to watch how themes and ideas would be transformed from research books, to sketches, initial toile's, and then the final piece on the catwalk.

SH: In producing your own high-end handbag line, what has been the greatest challenge so far?

KK: The greatest challenge was just getting the first line ready and out there to the 'right' people. I think every designer will have production issues especially when production units are so small... but once you do find a factory that is willing to go on the journey with you, you can count yourself very lucky. After my first pieces were ready I returned to NY and literally just cold called and emailed showroom and PR agencies to see if they would represent me. I walked around NY for several weeks with bags in hand and fingers crossed.

SH: How would you describe your customer?

KK: My customers are my friends, their sisters, mothers, aunts, etc... really any woman who appreciates quality and is an independent thinker and innovator, who is confident and secure

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in her own sense of style.

SH: What advice would you give to someone wanting to go into handbag design?

KK: Take your time and be persistent. From when I decided to start my own business to when I actually presented my first collection took 5 years. Not everyone will 'get' your vision, but that is okay. Believe in yourself and your product and there is no reason why you will not succeed. On a more practical note – speak to as many people in the business as possible and **DO NOT** be afraid to ask questions and ask for advice or contacts. We all started in the same place, it's how you use the information you obtain that is crucial.

Katherine Kwei's Site in the Hive: site/katherinekwei.com

Katherine Kwei's Website: katherinekwei.com

Posted by Myriah Zaytoun at 10:39 AM in Hot Interviews

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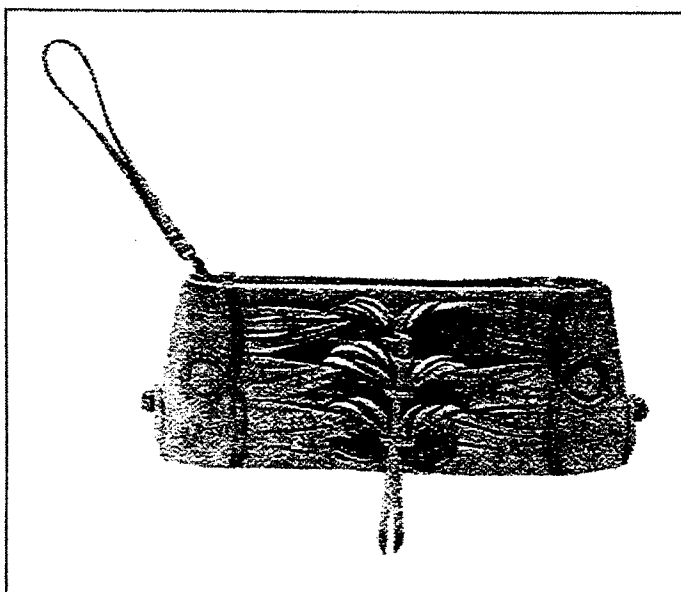
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CLOTHES-PIN

HANGING STYLE OUT TO DRY FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO SEE

9.14.2006

Katherine Kwei



I saw Katherine's bags in this weeks WWD and could not wait to show you guys some more. Katherine is launching for Spring/Summer 2007 and I'm so excited to get a sneak peek. The collection is based on a technique learned from her grandmother at an early age; the chinese "eternity" knot. This intricate weaving technique is fused with luxurious materials (purposely lacking in external hardware) to create what I'm sure will become a well loved collection. See it here...and good luck to Katherine on her launch!

ABOUT ME

CLOTHES-PIN

Clothes-Pin is a new resource for retailers, highlighting new and independent designers to the contemporary market.

Consulting Services: The main request I get is to review and provide feedback on products. The consulting service addresses the real dilemmas of establishing and building a brand. How to find your target market, differentiate your brand, merchandise a cohesive collection, target retailers specific to your product, creating linesheets, presentations, etc. The focus is to establish a niche and create a brand that stands apart in a competitive market. Email clothespinblog@gmail.com for more info and rates.

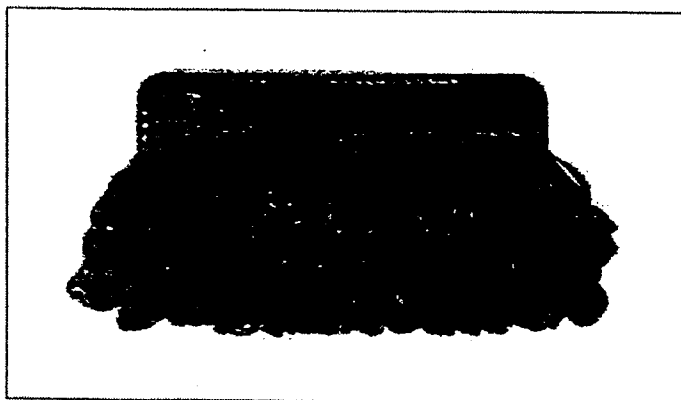
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ON THE LINE - RETAIL SPOTLIGHT

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update: the bags posted on Katherine's site are samples; her PR agency was kind enough to send me these true sneak peeks for your viewing pleasure!

POSTED BY CLOTHES-PIN AT 9:22 AM

LABELS: BAGS

1 COMMENTS:

Jeanne Feldkamp said...

omg... these are BEAUTIFUL. kudos to katherine on some of the first truly original handbags i've seen in a while!

10:10 PM

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Summer Friday- Bailey
Handbags

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Andrea Corson

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